

# YELLOWSTONE RIVER CONSERVATION DISTRICT COUNCIL

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CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEMBERS: Carbon, Custer, Dawson, Park, Prairie, Richland, Rosebud, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Treasure, Yellowstone, RAC Chairman, McKenzie County North Dakota

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## Meeting Minutes – October 19, 2006 Tele-Conference Call

**Members Present:** Paul Gilbert, Sweet Grass CD; Phil Fox Treasure CD; Tony Barone, Richland CD; Walter Rolf, Custer CD; Kenny Nemitz, Dawson CD; Bob Hector, Yellowstone CD; Dave Schwarz, Prairie CD; Don Youngbauer, Rosebud CD; John Moorhouse, RAC; Luther Waterland, MACD; and Orvin Finsaas, McKenzie ND.CD.

**Others Present:** George Jordan, USFWS; Laurie Zeller, DNRC; LaVerne Ivie, Yellowstone CD Administrator, Gay Easton, Yellowstone CD, Kelly Gilbertson, YRCDC Project Assistant and Carol Watts, Custer CD Administrator.

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Paul Gilbert called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm October 19, 2006. Roll call was done by Carol announcing the county names and members responding. Other participants were added. Gilbert then turned the meeting over to Chairman Don Youngbauer.

Bob Hector gave the first report on the 310 prototype program. He said that the input of data turned out to be more complicated than they thought it would be. There were also personnel changes. There will be a tele-conference on Monday with LaVerne Ivie, Kelly Gilbertson and Warren Kellogg. Kelly Gilbertson said inputting the 310's would be finished by the 25<sup>th</sup> of October.

Bob Hector continued his report by speaking about the success of the clean up project that the Yellowstone CD had taken in cooperation with the Montana Conservation Corps. He suggested that the YRCDC may be able to do something similar with the Yellowstone River and it would be good public relations for the group. Everyone agreed with this and Bob Hector is going to get more information from the FWP managers concerning clean up of fishing access sites.

Dave Schwarz reported on the EPA grant application. He said the Upper Yellowstone group and Park CD had pulled out and that the YRCDC would proceed on their own. Letters of support will need to be written. This application is due November 15, 2006. There will be a tele-conference on Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup> with all the parties helping out with the grant writing. Laurie Zeller asked what the project would be and Dave Schwarz replied that it would be the LiDAR photography.

Walter Rolf gave a report on coordinator search committee tele-conference that was held yesterday. He said they had decided on a candidate to interview and the interview would take place on November 3, 2006 at 10:00 am in the Billings YRCDC office. Three other names will be kept on hand in case this person is not hired. Letters will be sent to the remainder of applicants stating that they did not meet the qualifications. Carol questioned who would be attending the interview and who would be paid. Paul Gilbert suggested that just the search committee members would be paid but other Council members would be invited to attend at their own expense. The Council agreed with this recommendation. Kelly Gilbertson said she had confirmation that the applicant to be interviewed would be able to be in Billings at that time. Kelly will send out notices to the Council about the interview.

Don Youngbauer spoke about the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation weed grant saying that a preliminary proposal would be submitted by Laurie Kelley, Rosebud CD Administrator and Amy Adler, Rosebud County Weed Coordinator. This would be a pilot program on controlling Salt Cedar and Russian Olive on the Yellowstone River.

The meeting with the Missouri River Council will be November 8, 2006 at 10:00am during the MACD convention in Helena. Luther Waterland said he would be able to attend. Don Youngbauer and Bob Hector will also be there. Dave Schwarz has a conflicting meeting and Tony Barone said he may not make it there in time for the meeting. John Moorhouse said that he could not attend. The YRCDC display will be taken to the convention.

George Jordan asked if he needed to attend the meeting with the Missouri River Council and it was decided that he probably would not need to.

George Jordan also stated that there was no TAC report for this meeting.

Don Youngbauer is enthused about forming a connection with the Upper River Task Force and sees a good chance of working with them and using the information they have gathered in the future.

The business part of the meeting was next and Carol Watts went through the new grant statement with the Council. All the completed grants have been eliminated from the report. Carol Watts explained which grants were being used for various expenses. She did say the date at the top was wrong and should say the 16<sup>th</sup> of October.

The September 21<sup>st</sup> minutes were approved with three minor corrections that were corrected before the meeting. Paul Gilbert made the motion to accept the minutes with the corrections, Orvin Finsaas seconded and the motion carried by voice vote.

It was suggested that the next meeting be held in Miles City on November 16, 2006. Kelly Gilbertson will be on vacation. Carol Watts will contact Warren Kellogg to see if that will work for him. Warren has a TAC meeting scheduled in Billings on the preceding day.

Carol Watts would like to schedule a tour of the fish passage project at the T&Y Canal if the weather is good. George Jordan said that the hole was dug and concrete was being poured. Carol Watts will contact Roger Muggli to see if he would be available that day.

Don Youngbauer asked people to contact him through Laurie Kelley the Rosebud CD Administrator for items they would like to place on the agenda. Warren will have a TAC update, the search committee will have a report as will the coordinator.

Kenny Nemitz invited the Council members to attend an Irrigation Summit meeting that will be held October 25, 2006 at the Holiday Inn Grand in Billings. For more information, contact Kelly Gilbertson at 406-247-4411.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Carol Watts*